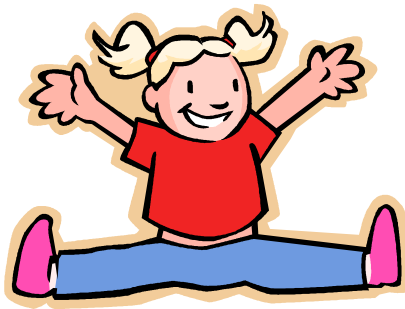




Bringing out the Best in Kids

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." *Franklin D. Roosevelt*



Our mission is in "Bringing out the Best in Kids." That's what Optimists do best. Through our programs and activities we provide the experience with support for young people to grow and develop Optimism. Optimism builds character, self-confidence and the ability to become contributing members of our communities.

Our "product" is youth service. As an administrator the Club President empowers others to provide service to kids. As such the president should not only set the example through participation but as President and C.E.O. provides the support, encouragement, delegation, coaching and recognition so that others can more effectively serve youth.

If fulfilling this mission becomes your focus, your impact and the success of your club will be multiplied many times over!

Bringing out the Best in Kids (Part 7 of 8)

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Empowering Kids through Optimism

We embrace our "Optimist Creed" because we see the power it has to enhance and enrich our lives with a "can do" spirit of self-actualization. As Optimists we empower kids with the same spirit of Optimism which can enhance and enrich their lives as well.

We do this by providing programs and activities in which kids can learn new skills and develop personal confidence within an environment of inter-personal support. We are not the teachers but we provide the “community experience” for service learning and applied self-development.

Junior Optimist Octagon International (JOOI)



Youth Clubs are one of the most powerful ways to serve kids by creating an on-going relationship which shares the ideals of who we are and what we stand for as Optimists!

Our JOOI program is a group of Optimist Clubs for youth. As Optimists these youth embrace the same philosophy and service outreach as do adult clubs. JOOI clubs provide an ongoing opportunity to mentor in small group situations with young people. Certainly joint community projects along side young people can enhance the “Optimist Experience” and bring wider appreciation and community attention.

JOOI clubs have suggested age guidelines:

- Alpha Clubs for ages 6-9 years
- Junior Optimist Clubs for ages 10-13 years
- Octagon Clubs for ages 14-18 years

You can begin your own Alpha, Junior Optimist or Octagon Club by:

- Finding an advisor who enjoys working with kids
- Signing up kids (25 minimum recommended)
- Elect officers – President & Secretary/Treasurer
- Then send in a report to youthclubs@optimist.org
 - Officer Information Report (List of officers, advisor and sponsor with address/phone/email)
 - List of youth members (Membership Roster)
 - Pay \$50 enrollment fee plus \$60 pro-rated registration fee plus \$8 pro-rated membership fee per member

More information about JOOI youth clubs is on-line at www.optimist.org click “Youth Club” tab.

Youth and Community Service Activities

The strength of affiliation with our International Organization is that every club member has access to planning guides, promotional material and information that assist in conducting projects and activities.

In addition, International affiliation qualifies contestants for Scholarship programs and participation at our annual International Convention.

Consider the following Optimist International programs for your club:

I. Youth Service Activities

Childhood Cancer Campaign (CCC)



The Optimist International Childhood Cancer Campaign (CCC) has recognized the need to support young people with cancer. Our mission is to be the leading force to rid the world of childhood cancer. Optimists are taking on cancer with many different service projects – providing support to children with cancer, providing support to cancer patients' families and care partners; providing support to healthcare providers and providing support for childhood cancer research. Optimist volunteers see childhood cancer as the ultimate test, and the organization has both the manpower and the will to defeat this devastating disease.

<http://www.optimist.org/default.cfm?content=members/oicccmain.htm>

Optimist International Junior Golf Championships (OIJGC)



Gather up the clubs, the tees, the golf balls, and the young people of your community for one of the most exciting sporting events in the world—the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. Every year, more than 5,000 boys and girls compete in Optimist qualifying tournaments. The best of these golfers advance to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships which are held at the PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Youngsters in your community have the opportunity to play in this prestigious event and meet other young athletes from all over the world. The Optimist International Junior Golf Championships provides cultural learning opportunities, competition, a week of golf, and best of all, lots of fun!

http://www.optimist.org/default.cfm?content=JrGOLF/oijgc_tournament_main_page.htm

Scholarship Contests

a. Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH)



This contest is designed to offer young people who are deaf or hard of hearing the chance to present their thoughts on a topic in a public forum. This experience helps to develop the skills and confidence to present in sign language or orally to a large audience. The program provides a valuable opportunity to compete for a \$1500 college scholarship.

http://www.optimist.org/Publications/CCDHH_IPPG031.pdf

b. Essay Contest



This contest gives young people the chance to write about their own opinions regarding the world in which they live. Students can use their personal experiences, the experience of their country or a more historical perspective. The selected topic is meant to give young people the room to develop their own views around one central idea. Participants have the chance to win college scholarships of \$650 at the District level and up to \$5000 at the International level.

http://www.optimist.org/Publications/Essay_PPG04.pdf

c. Oratorical Contest



Since its start in 1928, the Oratorical contest has become the longest-running program sponsored by Optimist International. This contest is designed to inspire today's young people to motivate and inform others through public speaking. Young people are given the opportunity to compete for a college scholarship of up to \$1500 at the District level and express their views on a pre-assigned topic.

http://www.optimist.org/Publications/Oratorical_IPPG04.pdf

II. Community Service Activities:

Respect For Law Week/ Day of Non-Violence



As the title suggests, the program inspires respect for the law among young people. In conjunction with the Respect For Law program, Clubs can take part in the annual Optimist Day of Non-Violence. This special day occurs on Saturday during Respect For Law Week to encourage peace and harmony within communities all over the world. Clubs can conduct an Optimist Day of Non-Violence Rally, which brings families together in communities to pledge against local violence.

<http://www.optimist.org/default.cfm?content=members/mbrcdpa7.htm>

Tri-Star Sports Skills Contest



Tri-Star enables Clubs to run one or several successful sports skills contests efficiently. Tri-Star Sports Skills Contests are designed for youth ages 8-13 and test three skills in baseball, basketball, football, soccer or hockey. Each contest offers opportunities to promote self-confidence and physical fitness.

<http://www.optimist.org/default.cfm?content=members/mbrcdpa9.htm>

Youth Appreciation Week



Since 1957, Optimist Clubs have recognized youth for their talents in the arts, athletics, academics and for contributions to the community. Youth Appreciation Week provides the perfect opportunity for your Club to recognize youth and involve them in Optimist activities.

<http://www.optimist.org/default.cfm?content=members/mbrcdp>

[a10.htm](#)

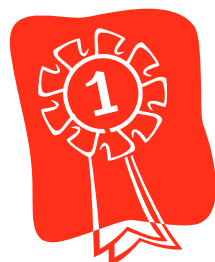
Youth Safety Program



Keeping children safe in their recreational activities has been an important part of Optimist programs for many years. The Optimist International Youth Safety Program encompasses all of the activities originally included in the Safety on Wheels Program and also includes a program on Internet Safety. Other components include bike riding, skateboarding, in-line skating, riding the school bus and traveling in automobiles.

<http://www.optimist.org/default.cfm?content=members/mbrcdpa11.htm>

Community Service Awards (C.P.A.)



Many clubs conduct original and unique youth and community service projects and fund raisers. Whether your project is new or an International project done in a grand manner, you are invited to share your Club's activity with other Optimists by entry into the "Community Service Awards (C.P.A.) program. This "project story" is a great way to pass on your project to the next year's chair.

The top entries will be recognized in "The Optimist" magazine and on our on-line Resource Library. A summary of the best overall winner and the Future of Optimism winner will also be included.

Share what you do best with the World of Optimists!



The End of part 7: Bringing out the Best in Kids

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